

## BE for CE-Level Decision Template

NFS Unit & District: White River National Forest – Dillon Ranger District

Project Name: Arapahoe Basin Lenawee Lift Replacement, Warming Hut and midway BBQ

Date: April 5, 2021



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### Section I – Screening Tables

Species List Analyzed:

R2 RFSS List Date: ☒ 7/2017 (most recent [R2 FSM 2670](#)); ☐ - Other Date

Date TEP list acquired from [IPaC](#) 4/2/2021

*Table 1. Species that are not analyzed further*

| Listed and Proposed Species  |
|--|
| The following listed or proposed species or designated critical habitats are neither <b>known or expected to occur</b> in the project area, nor expected to be directly or indirectly affected by the project. As a result, <b>no effect</b> is expected to these listed or proposed species and effects to them <b>are not analyzed further</b> : |
| All species <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| All species except those listed below and analyzed in Section II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |
| The following listed or proposed species or designated critical habitat is known or expected to occur or may be affected by the project and are analyzed further. <b>Proceed to Section II with these species.</b><br><u>List species here:</u> Canada lynx  |
| Regional Forester's Sensitive Species  |
| The following sensitive species are neither <b>known or expected to occur</b> in the project area, nor expected to be directly or indirectly affected by the project. As a result, <b>no impact</b> is expected to these sensitive species and impacts to them <b>are not analyzed further</b> :   |
| All species <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| All species except those listed below and analyzed in Section II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |

Biological Evaluation for Categorical Exclusion

The following sensitive species are known or expected to occur in the project area or may be affected by the project and are analyzed further. **Proceed to Section II with these species.**

List species here: White-tailed ptarmigan

Biological Evaluation for Categorical Exclusion  
Section II – Analysis and determination of effect

Table 2. Identification of habitat and analysis of impacts

| Listed and Proposed Species carried forward from Section I   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| For each species carried forward from Section I, briefly identify and describe all occupied and unoccupied habitat as it relates to recovery and summarize how the proposed action may directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affect the species or their occupied habitat, or unoccupied habitat required for recovery                 |   |  |
| Species  | Habitat description   | Summary of potential effects from proposed action on species or habitat  |
| Canada lynx  | Dense spruce/fir forests above 8,000 ft; riparian areas.                                      | Lynx may use portions of the project area for travel but there will be no impacts on lynx habitat from the proposed projects. The warming hut, lift replacement and BBQ area are all considered to be non-habitat for lynx, therefore no impacts are anticipated. No tree removal would occur. Travel would not be impacted from implementation activities.                  |
| Regional Forester's Sensitive Species carried forward from Section I   |   |  |
| For each species carried forward from Section, briefly identify and describe all occupied and unoccupied habitat as it relates to maintaining viability on the unit or preventing a trend towards listing and summarize how the proposed action may directly, indirectly, or cumulatively impact the species or their occupied habitat |   |  |
| Species  | Habitat description   | Summary of potential impacts from proposed action on species or habitat  |
| White-tailed ptarmigan ( <i>Lagopus leucurus</i> )   | Alpine tundra, high-elevation willow thickets, krummholz, spruce-fir (winter) (Hoffman 2006). | Habitat may be impacted where areas of grading are proposed if willow thickets are present. Grading activities and construction of a warming hut have the potential to cause ptarmigan to abandon nesting areas and move to other locations. The footprint of grading activities is 1.9 acres, making this a very slight potential for impact to suitable ptarmigan habitat. |

Table 3. Determination of effect

| Listed and Proposed Species carried forward from Section I |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| The effects of the proposed action are:                    | Species     | Rationale  |
| No effect  | Canada lynx | No lynx habitat or snowshoe hare habitat would be impacted from proposed activities. |

Biological Evaluation for Categorical Exclusion

|   |                        |  |
|---|------------------------|--|
| <b>May affect, not likely to adversely affect</b>   |                        |  |
| <b>May affect, likely to adversely affect</b>   |                        |  |
| <b>Regional Forester's Sensitive Species</b> carried forward from Section I   |                        |  |
| The impacts of the proposed action are:   | Species                | Rationale  |
| <b>No impact</b>  |                        |  |
| <b>Beneficial impact (net beneficial)</b>   |                        |  |
| <b>May adversely impact individuals, but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the Planning Area, nor cause a trend toward federal listing</b> | White-tailed ptarmigan | Small potential for habitat to be impacted by grading or construction of warming hut. This would only affect an individual or two at the most. |
| <b>Likely to result in a loss of viability in the Planning Area, or in a trend toward federal listing</b>   |                        |  |

## Biological Evaluation for Categorical Exclusion

### Section III – Recommendations for dealing with adverse effects

Optional recommendations by the qualified biologist of options to reduce negative effects/impacts of the project aimed at helping achieve, maintain, or restore project eligibility for CE – **These recommendations should be collaboratively developed, ideally during the Plan to Project phase, with the responsible official and other specialists**

*Table 4. Recommendations for removing, avoiding, or compensating for any adverse effects and notes for particular species*

| Species        | Recommendation / notes  |
|----------------|---|
| Mountain goats | The Lenawee lift is adjacent to a mountain goat nursery in spring and early summer. Recommend working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on any timing of activities to avoid impacts to goats. |

### Section IV – References

References of informal consultation, contacts, contributors, sources of data, and literature used in developing this BE